

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Severe Weather Event 26 to 28 April 2011

SITUATION REPORT #6

30 April 2011 1500 hrs

SUMMARY

An outbreak of severe thunderstorms with damaging winds, large hail, and periods of heavy rainfall impacted the Commonwealth during the late afternoon and evening hours on Wednesday, 27 April 2011 and Thursday, 28 April 2011. Governor Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency on 28 April in response to this event authorizing state agencies to assist local governments responding to the impact of possible tornadoes. On Friday, 29 April 2011 Governor Bob McDonnell requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance for Halifax and Washington counties. The request also included statewide hazard mitigation.

To date, the National Weather Service has confirmed 12 tornadoes; one (EF3) in Washington County; one (EF2) in Smyth County; one (EF2) in Halifax County; one (EF2) Rockingham/Shenandoah Counties; one (EF1) in Keezletown area Rockingham County; one (EF1) in Linville area Rockingham County; one (EF1) in Caroline County; one (EF1) in Goochland/Hanover County; one (EF1) in Prince Edward/Cumberland Counties; one (EF1) in Churchville area of Augusta County; one (EF0) in Shenandoah/Frederick Counties; and one (EF0) in Nokesville area Prince William County. National Weather Service forecast offices are still working to confirm additional tornadoes.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

Protective Actions

Local Emergencies Declared (4):

- Halifax County on 04/27
- Washington County on 04/28
- Shenandoah County on 04/28
- Smyth County on 04/28

Local Emergency Operation Centers Open (2):

- Washington County on 04/28
- Shenandoah County on 04/28

Local Shelters Open (1):

- Washington County: Emory & Henry Gymnasium; **2 occupants**

Casualties

- 5 fatalities confirmed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- **63** injuries reported in Washington County
- 2 injuries reported in Shenandoah County
- 3 injuries reported in Smyth County
- 7 injuries reported in Halifax County

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Initial Damage Assessments (reported by localities)

- 427 structures reported damaged (55 destroyed, 77 major damage, 174 minor damage, 121 affected)
- Augusta, Frederick, Goochland, Halifax, Shenandoah , and Washington Counties

Power Outages

Appalachian Power: 1,648 (-352)

- **Washington – 1,648**
- APCo anticipates completing restoration to all impacted consumers by tomorrow.

Missions

- **Seven (7) Active missions**
- **Twelve (12) Completed missions**
- **One (1) Withdrawn mission**

ESF 1 – Transportation

- One (1) active mission – Trailer mounted generators (4) with extending lights deployed to Washington County.
- **24** roads closed or blocked due to flooding
- I- 81 northbound lanes at exit 26, I-81 southbound at exit 32 on and off-ramps are restricted to emergency vehicles and local traffic only.
- **The on and off ramps of I-81 at exit 29 northbound and southbound are closed to all traffic.**

ESF 4 – Firefighting

- **One (1)VDFP Incident Management Team departed today at 1130 hours.**

ESF 5 – Emergency Management

- One (1) active mission – SW Mobile Command Post on scene in Washington County
- VERT Activated and VEOC is at Response Operations with additional staffing
- Local Support Services Director Joe Coyle, Regional Coordinators Stan Crigger, Willie Richardson; Area HAZMAT Officers Thurman, and Tolbert are in Washington County

ESF 10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

- VDEM area HAZMAT Officers and members from the Bristol and Wise County Hazardous Materials Teams assisting with clean up operations in Washington County.
- **Completed hazardous materials cleanup dealing with tractor trailers at Petro Truck Stop**
- **Team members contained and removed multiple solvents at Gates Manufacturing in the industrial park.**
- **Team members will be conducting a survey for household hazardous waste, any material collected will be delivered to MXI for the previously scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Day.**

ESF 13 – Public Safety

- **Virginia State Police conducting flyover today which will include VDEM HAZMAT Officers Thurman and Tolbert as well as the county's GIS coordinator.**

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ESF 15 – External Affairs

- External Affairs Chief Bob Spieldenner continues to support Washington County with public information outreach and media relations.
- VDEM Public Affairs staff continues to work in the JIC at the VEOC, posting information to the blog site at www.vaemergency.com and to social media sites, coordinating release of information with state agencies and the Governor's Press Office, preparing news releases and talking points, and handling media inquiries.
- Nearly 100 media inquiries handled to date.
- Working media advisory to invite media to field visits by FEMA and VDEM Sunday and Monday in Washington, and Halifax.
- **Created and provided three flyers for use by Washington County at their assistance center - safety after a tornado; chainsaw safety; refrigerator/freezer safety.**

ESF 17 – Volunteer and Donations Management

- Volunteer Coordination team deployed to Washington County.
- Volunteer Coordination team deployed to Halifax County.
- Virginia Baptist Mission Board feeding unit deployed to Glade Spring (Washington County) to prepare first meals for responders. **Unit was stood down following breakfast on 30 April but will remain in area to prepare meals in relationship with the Red Cross.**
- American Red Cross is responding to multiple locations and providing food to the public at the Emory and Henry campus shelter.
- Four chain saw crews deployed to Shenandoah County.

Local Actions

- Halifax County – Local American Red Cross and Department of Social Services opening disaster recovery center at Liberty Volunteer Fire Department.
- **Washington County – Volunteer reception center set up at King Center – Emory and Henry College**

Weather Conditions

There is a 30% chance of afternoon/evening showers and thunderstorms on Sunday, 1 May, and a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms on Monday, 2 May. No severe weather or hazardous weather is forecast at this time.

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